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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/317,103	05/21/1999	TRACY LEE NELSON	1176	8645

28004 7590 03/12/2004
SPRINT
6391 SPRINT PARKWAY
KSOPHT0101-Z2100
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100

EXAMINER

AGDEPPA, HECTOR A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2642

18

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/317,103

Applicant(s)

NELSON ET AL.

Examiner

Hector A. Agdeppa

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 108-127 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 108-127 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 108 – 127 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,483,589 (Ishida et al.) in view of US 5,450,482 (Chen et al.).

As to claims 108 and 118, Ishida et al. teach an apparatus and method for routing control for a composite network wherein there are multiple nodes capable of receiving call information and depending on various received identifiers determine how to route that call. Inherently or at the least, obviously, each of these nodes has signaling processors embodied in the form of path selecting unit 103, number identifying unit, 101, etc. (Fig. 3)

Furthermore, each of these signal processors has access to a call processing table for selecting identifiers to "classify" the calls and determining how to route calls using the various identifiers such as an activation identifier (AI), node identifier (CC), connection type identifier (V/F), etc. (Fig. 6, Col. 7, line 54 – Col. 8, line 10 of Ishida et al.) Ishida et al. teach that the contemplated network consists of a plurality of connection systems and other networks as well wherein the system may route calls using any combination of nodes or outside networks such as the PSTN. This must be the case or else a system would not be able to distinguish between one call and another. (Col. 1, lines 52 – 60, Col. 2, line 40 – Col. 3, line 8, Col. 7, line 54 – Col. 9, line 10 of Ishida et al.)

Moreover, inasmuch as one object of Ishida's system is to provide routing control method wherein a decision is made whether to allow or refuse certain communications based upon dial information associated with a call, it is inherent that the communication is interworked based on a call identifier or certain information specific to the call. (Col. 2, lines 44 – 52 of Ishida et al.)

Also see Col. 10, lines 42 – 64 wherein based on the type of communication requested, which is identified by a dial information and indicated by an identifier, communications are interworked between various connection systems such as a Japanese fax node to the German PSTN.

Ishida et al. do not teach updating of the call processing tables.

However, updating of call processing tables in switches is old and well known.

Chen et al. teach a system and method wherein each switch in a network has call routing tables which are updated dynamically and every time a service changes status. This is done so that if a switch or node has blocked resources, for example, calls can be rerouted through other switches that have the proper capabilities.

(Abstract, Col. 1, line 40 – Col. 2, line 33 of Chen et al.)

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have implemented such a feature in Ishida et al. inasmuch as Chen et al. teach that such a system can provide other service circuit services, as well as for implementation among nodes in one or more networks in order to minimize blocking and enhance routing efficiency and least cost routing of inter-network traffic such as between national and international switches and nodes. (Col. 3, lines 4 – 5 and Col. 5, lines 12 – 32 of Chen

et al.) And as discussed above, this is the purpose and system of Ishida et al. Moreover, Ishida et al. already contemplates economical routing (Col. 1, line 59 of Ishida et al.) and Ishida et al teaches the network upon which the invention of Chen et al. would be operating on.

Lastly, because the call processing tables discussed above are updated at each switch, based on service changes and other switches' status, call processing is remotely controlled.

As to claims 109, 111, 113 – 115, 119, 121, and 123 – 125, such is inherent in Ishida et al. There must be an MMI (Man machine interface) in order to update the tables. If done automatically, then it would be obvious then to revert to a manual means of entering information where again, an MMI would be inherently necessary. Also inherent is receiving the call data from an operations center. In any semi-modern telecommunications system there is an operations center from which such data is sent. Even if not, the data must be received from somewhere and whether it comes from separate nodes or servers or centers, which is old and well known, or from a single operations center, which is also old and well known, either would be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have implemented in Ishida et al. at the time the invention was made.

Also, Ishida et al. in Fig. 6 teach the use of and storage of routing tables and tables having the called number. As to the ANI, Ishida et al. teach determining automatically whether or not certain connections may be made depending on where the caller is calling from and where the caller is calling to. Therefore it would be inherent,

that the ANI information would be needed and stored as a means of determining how to route the calls.

As to claims 110 and 120, if manual entering of data into the call processing tables is done as addressed above, obviously like in almost any other provisioning scenario/system, access will be limited to certain personnel inherently requiring a user security configuration system for giving those certain operators/personnel the required access.

As to claims 112 and 122, a regional craft view system is employed to simply allow an operations center to view configurations of the signaling processor. In any telecommunications system, one will find an operations center allowing certain personnel to look at/change a system's configuration. As such, it would be at the least obvious to include such a feature in the invention of Ishida et al. by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Such a features is old and well known in the art and there is likely no other method of provisioning and controlling a telecommunications system more commonly used giving adequate motivation to implement such a regional craft view system. Furthermore, whether the mechanism used to view configuration is a regional craft view or any other type of mechanism, these are simply an obvious preference for one of ordinary skill in the art.

As to claims 116, 117, 126, and 127, such is merely the broadband aspect of the claimed invention. Inasmuch as Ishida et al. teach handling both voice and fax, and the fact that many well known systems now allow broadband communications, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to apply the methods used in Ishida et al. in a broadband platform, thus allowing for ATM to non-ATM and TDM communications.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 108 – 127 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hector A. Agdeppa whose telephone number is 703-305-1844. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon thru Fri 9:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad F. Matar can be reached on 703-305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

H.A.A.
March 3, 2004


AHMAD F. MATAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2700